



Store

iTools

iCards

QuickTime

Support

Mac OS X

Hot News

Hardware

Software

Made4Mac

Education

Creative

SmallBiz

Developer

Where to Buy

Apple Learning Interchange

Learning Resources

[ALI Home](#) ▶[Learning Resources](#) ▶[Units of Practice](#) ▶[News & Highlights](#) ▶[Quicktime TV for Learning](#) ▶[Professional Development](#) ▶[Search](#)[Browse](#)[Contribute](#)[About](#)[ALI](#) > [Learning Resources](#) > Browse Resources

[Handouts for Parents](#)

Listening, Setting Standards, and More

1. Listen to your children when they tell you their problems. These problems are significant to them. Take their problems seriously.
2. Set strict standards for behavior. They will not tell you, but limits are appreciated. For example, a principal talked with a girl about an older boy she met in the community. The boy wanted the girl to go out with him, but he was four years older than she. The principal asked the girl what her mother and father would say. She replied, "They would not approve." The administrator then asked the girl how she felt about dating an older boy. "I'm a little scared, but I like him. He's so cute. But, I think I'll tell him my parents say he's too old for me."
3. Insist that your children follow the rules. They need to know that you believe home and school standards are important.
4. Set a good example for your child.
5. Don't encourage dating at an early age. Encourage group activities and mixers. Dating at this age causes problems, for many students do not have the maturity to handle it. One teacher tells the story of two seventh graders whose parents were taking

them to meet for dates. When the girl told the boy she didn't want to date anymore, the boy was so hurt that he spread rumors about the girl.

6. Be cognizant of the problems relating to invitations to parties. Don't let your children exclude one or two from a class. Don't send invitations to be handed out at school. Talk with your child about feelings concerning invitations. Make sure your child does not exclude someone you think has been invited.
7. Be home when your children are and when they have friends over. Be present during parties. Don't let your children have a party downstairs while you stay upstairs "minding your own business."
8. Encourage your children to be polite to everyone. Try to get your children to mix with others in the class and the school, not just the same children all the time.
9. Don't let your children tell you what is best for them. Listen, but remember that you are the boss. Your children should know that they are allowed to go to a party after you have checked the specifics about the party, not because all their friends are going. Your children should wear clothing you think appropriate, not what "everyone else is wearing."
10. Listen to your children and talk with them about their concerns. Respect what they have to say and take them seriously. Let them know how you feel about their safety and the standards you have set for them.
11. Tell your children that they are bright, beautiful, thoughtful, wonderful, etc. Keep the hugs and the talk going. All adolescents think something is wrong with them. They are too tall, too short, too skinny, too fat, too smart, have too many bumps on their face, don't have enough earring holes in their ears, whatever. Parents and teachers hear comments such as, "If I only could have (eye shadow, my own telephone, my hair straightened, those athletic shoes, etc.) everything would be all right." Adolescents need to hear positive comments often, because they

are often so down on themselves.

12. **Keep in mind that your children at this age are not miniature adults. They have the capacity to mature, and they will improve in self-control and thoughtfulness as time passes. They already have enthusiasm, initiative and intelligence. They have a very special energy that makes them fun to be around, especially in one-to-one situations with adults. That is a time when they don't have to impress their peers.**

Be assured that all this is normal; it's called "growing up."

Written by:

Merle Marsh
Worcester Country School

Email feedback, bug reports, correspondence to [ALI Coordinator](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

Copyright © 2001 Apple Computer, Inc. [All rights reserved.](#)